

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 NEA-10 OIC-04 AID-20 OMB-01 IO-13 DPW-01

ACDA-19 RSR-01 /177 W

----- 128943

R 040900Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1610

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO XC VS AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN OBJECTIONS TO GVN PARTICIPATION IN
SEATO COUNCIL MEETING AS OBSERVER

REF: A. CANBERRA 4791 (NOTAL); B. STATE 169869; C. STATE 174327

1. BLAKENEY (FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEFENSE DIVISION, DFA) CALLED ME SEPT 4 AND INFORMED ME THAT AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (I.E., PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM) HAD DECIDED AUSTRALIA COULD NOT AGREE TO ATTENDANCE OF GVN REPRESENTATIVE AS OBSERVER AT THE UP-COMING SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. THIS CONFIRMS BLAKENEY'S BELIEF (REF A) THAT AUSTRALIA MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE WITH INVITATION, DESPITE ENCOURAGING EARLIER INDICATION.

2. BLAKENEY SAID THAT HE HAD MADE ARGUMENTS TO WHITLAM CONTAINED IN REF B (COPY OF WHICH WE PROVIDED BLAKENEY ON AUG 29). HOWEVER, WHITLAM COMMENTED THAT AUSTRALIA NO LONGER DISCUSSED MILITARY MATTER WITH GVN SINCE
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CEASEFIRE WAS ACHIEVED AND, THEREFORE, HE COULD NOT

AGREE TO SEATING OF GVN OBSERVER. BLAKENEY POINTED
OUT TO ME THAT THE GOA HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NEW
ZEALAND AND THAT PRIME MINISTER KIRK OF NEW ZEALAND
IS TAKING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LINE.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: smithrj
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